

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2022

Mr. Stephen Squeri
Chief Executive Officer
American Express, Inc.
200 Vesey St
New York, NY 10285

Mr. Alfred Kelly, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Visa, Inc.
900 Metro Center Blvd
Foster City, CA 94404

Mr. Michael Miebach
Chief Executive Officer
Mastercard, Inc.
2000 Purchase St
Purchase, NY 10577

Dear Mr. Squeri, Mr. Kelly, Jr., and Mr. Meibach,

We are deeply concerned with your decisions to separately categorize firearm and other related purchases by creating merchant codes for gun stores. We fear that your decisions to create new codes for purchases at gun stores will undoubtedly be used by Second Amendment opponents to further push for tighter restrictions on gun sales and infringe on the constitutional rights of millions of law-abiding Americans.

On Saturday, September 10th, Visa announced that it would adopt the International Organization for Standardization's newly established merchant-category code for firearm sales, rather than continue to use a more general classification. We believe this action will unfairly target law-abiding gun owners who purchase firearms for a variety of reasons, such as personal and home protection, competition shooting, and hunting. The ownership and usage of firearms is an important aspect of life for many Americans, and we oppose any encroachment that undermines or weakens this right.¹

Visa claimed that it "will proceed with next steps, while ensuring we protect all legal commerce on the Visa network in accordance with our long-standing rules."² However, its decision to supply banks with this detailed information could allow them to restrict or even ban the purchasing of firearms using their personal credit cards.

This is not the solution. We demand you to reverse your decision to adopt any new firearms tracking code and prioritize the privacy of law-abiding gun owners. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/gun-violence-shootings-new-york-city-politics-4aae50c67e40f9683f604a8683acc391>

² <https://www.dailywire.com/news/visa-to-categorize-sales-at-gun-stores-in-win-for-gun-control-advocates>



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
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